

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 12787 01 OF 02 201903Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 109151

O 201848Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9595

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12787

EXDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: ITEM 4.1.1: ISRAEL AND
MEDITERRANEAN MEETINGS

REF: PARIS 12640

1. SUMMARY. AT MAY 21 AFTERNOON PLENARY
SESSION OF BOARD, USDEL MAY CONCEIVABLY BE FACED WITH
SITUATION IN WHICH ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH NOT ON EXBD,
WILL ASK FOR FLOOR AND BID FOR INVITATION TO MEETING
AND CONFERENCE UNDER SUBJECT ITEM AND NONE ON 40 MEMBER
BOARD WOULD PROPOSE ADDING THEM TO LIST OF INVITEES.
ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS HAVE NOT FORMALLY ASKED US TO MAKE
SUCH PROPOSAL, FAILURE ON OUR PART TO DO SO IN THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES COULD PRODUCE CRITICISM FROM PRESS COVER-
ING THIS ITEM BASED ON ARGUMENT THAT US NOT FOLLOWING
THROUGH ON POSITION IT TOOK IN MAY 9 SCHERER STATEMENT.
ON OTHER HAND, US PROPOSAL AT THIS POINT TO ADD ISRAEL
TO LIST OF INVITEES WOULD DISMAY EUROPEANS,
EGYPTIANS, AND DG M'BOW AND WOULD SURELY FAIL BY SIG-
NIFICANT MARGIN, GIVING ISRAELIS FRESH ARGUMENTS FOR
WHAT THEY REGARD AS UNESCO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM.
INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 12787 01 OF 02 201903Z

2. MORNING MAY 20 USDEL BECAME AWARE OF SOME APPREHEN-

SION BOTH ON PART OF EUROPEAN BOARD MEMBERS, EGYPTIAN BOARD MEMBER, AND, WE UNDERSTAND, DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW, THAT QUESTION OF INVITATIONS TO MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS IN 1975 AND CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN AND ARAB STATES IN 1976 DESCRIBED UNDER SUBJECT ITEM WOULD BE OPENED UP FOR FURTHER DEBATE BY AN ISRAELI STATEMENT TO THE BOARD AFTERNOON OF MAY 21. ACCORDING TO BIRRELL (UK PERMDEL), EC-9 GROUP HERE, AS RESULT OF A NUMBER OF ISRAELI DEMARCHES IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, HAS BECOME CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL MAY PRECIPITATE MOVE TO BE INVITED TO SUBJECT MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE. THEY THEREFORE, MET AND DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO GOVERNMENTS THAT THE FOUR EC-9 BOARD MEMBERS VOTE "YES" BUT NOT SPEAK IN FAVOR OF INVITATION TO ISRAELIS IN SUCH AN EVENT. ACCORDING TO HIM, THEY ALSO DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM ACTUALLY PROPOSING INVITATION TO ISRAELTHEMSELVES. THEY HAVE REFRAINED FROM TELLING ISRAELIS OF THEIR VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT COMMISSION REPORT AS IS AND MAKE STATEMENTS REGRETTING LACK OF INVITATION TO ISRAEL.

A. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED BY BLOCKER, UNESCO PR DIRECTOR, THAT A NUMBER OF UK, US AND FRENCH PRESS CORRESPONDENTS POINTING UP SUBJECT ISSUE IN RECENT ARTICLES, SEVERAL OF WHICH FOCUS ON MAY 21 CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM IN BOARD PLENARY. BLOCKER ADDED THAT CBS LE MONDE AND THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN WILL HAVE CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT. (DG CONTINUES TO HOLD BLOCKER RESPONSIBLE IN PART FOR THIS NEGATIVE PRESS INTEREST).

4. MME. HERZOG, AT END OF MAY 20 CONVERSATION IN WHICH SHE DEPLORED EXISTING ISRAELI - M'BOW IMPASSE ON LEMAIRE VISIT, REMARKED THAT M'BOW CURRENTLY ANXIOUS ABOUT POSSIBILITY ISRAELI MOVE MAY 21 WHICH WOULD PRECIPITATE VOTE AND DEBATE AND BREAK TRUCE HE HAS SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN.

5. ISRAELI PERMREP YAPOU, IN SUCCESSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH BIRRELL, BAKER AND JONES, STATED THAT HE HAD NO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 12787 01 OF 02 201903Z

INSTRUCTIONS AT PRESENT TO RE-OPEN INVITATION ISSUE, BUT DID LATER INDICATE HE WILL MAKE STATEMENT. HE AVOIDED, HOWEVER, ANY PREDICTION THAT WOULD SUGGEST TO THE CONTRARY, HOWEVER, LEAVING IMPRESSION THAT JERUSALEM CURRENTLY CONSIDERING RESULTS OF DEMARCHES IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND REACHING DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO PRODUCE DEBATE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE OF UNESCO'S "DISCRIMINATION" OR TO FACILITATE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12787 02 OF 02 201903Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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----- 109159

O 201848Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9596

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12787

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CALMER ATMOSPHERE LOOKING TOWARD SUBSEQUENT CORRECTIVE
ACTIONS BY DG .

6. EGYPTIAN PERMREP EL-WAKIL, IN CONVERSATION WITH
BAKER MAY 20, ALSO EXPRESSED APPREHENSION ABOUT OPEN-
ING UP OF ISSUE AND URGED US TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT ON
ISRAELIS. BAKER TOLD EL-WAKIL THAT US STRATEGY (PARA
8, 10 OF REFTEL) DOES NOT ENVISAGE REOPENING OF ISSUE
ADDING THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT INFORMED US OF ANY IN-
STRUCTIONS TO RE-OPEN ISSUED INVITATIONS.

7. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE CONSIDER THAT THERE
ARE TWO MAIN CONTINGENCIES WHICH COULD OCCUR MAY 21.

(1) ISRAELI STATEMENT POINTING UP WHAT THEY CONSIDER
TO BE DISCRIMINATORY ACTION AGAINST THEM BY UNESCO WITH
PART OF RESPONSIBILITY FALLING ON UNESCO SECRETARIAT
AND PART ON MEMBERSHIP FOR ITS 18TH
GENERAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS. WE CONSIDER THIS MOST
LIKELY CONTINGENCY.

(2) ISRAELI STATEMENT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE PLUS REQUEST
THAT ISRAEL BE ADDED TO LIST OF PROPOSED INVITEES
BEFORE THE BOARD FOR MEETING AND CONFERENCE UNDER SUB-
JECT ITEM.

8. UNDER FIRST CONTINGENCY, WE WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR

STATEMENT DESCRIBED IN PARA 9 OF REFTTEL TO APPEAR MORE
SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAELI CONCERNS, BUT WITHOUT IDENTIFYING
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PAGE 02 PARIS 12787 02 OF 02 201903Z

OURSELVES WITH THEIR EXPRESSED VIEWS. UNDER SECOND
CONTINGENCY, WE WOULD RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CHOOSE BE-
TWEEN FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVES: (A) IMMEDIATE PRO-
POSAL BY US TO VOTE TO ADD ISRAEL TO LIST OF INVITEES
IN LIKELY EVENT THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD MAKE SUCH A
PROPOSAL; (B) ADDITION TO OUR EXPLANATION OF STATEMENT
OF REGRET THAT ISRAEL NOT PROPOSED AS INVITEE TO CON-
FERENCE UNDER SUBJECT ITEM, POSSIBLY WITH OBLIQUE ADDED
OBSERVATION THAT ISRAEL HAD NEVER FORMALLY REQUESTED
UNTIL TODAY TO BE INVITED AND THAT IN ABSENCE OF SUCH
REQUEST USDEL WAS CONFINING ITSELF TO STATEMENT RE-
GARDING THEIR ABSENCE FROM LIST AND CALLING ATTENTION TO
SCHERER MAY 9 STATEMENT.

9. ALTERNATIVE (A) IN PARA 8 HAS ADVANTAGE THAT,
WITH SOME OF PRESS PRESENT, WE WOULD STAND BEHIND ISRAEL
IN ITS APPEAL AGAINST WHAT IT FEELS IS DISCRIMINATORY
UNESCO ACT. IN SO DOING, WE WOULD BRING OUT RELUCTANT
EUROPEAN SUPPORT AND SHOW ISRAEL TO HAVE CONTINUED
SYMPATHY IN EUROPEAN REGION, WITH BEST ESTIMATES VOTE
OF 6 TO 8 IN FAVOR, 14 AGAINST, BALANCE ABSTAINING.
DISADVANTAGE IS THAT WE WOULD APPEAR TO BE ACTING IN
CONCERT WITH ISRAEL TO REINVIGORATE THEIR PARIAH ROLE,
AND COULD UPSET DG'S TRUCE, ANNOY EUROPEANS, MAKE
EGYPTIANS UNHAPPY, AND PROBABLY PRODUCE STRONG
RESPONSE FROM SYRIAN, WHO EGYPTIAN TELLS US, OTHERWISE
DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE STATEMENT.

10. FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE (B), WE COULD BE ACCUSED BY
PRESS OF NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH ON OUR MAY 9 STATEMENT
AND MAKING PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT LOGICALLY FOLLOW FROM
THAT POSITION. ISRAELIS, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE
PLACED US IN THIS AWKWARD POSITION WITH LITTLE OR NO
WARNING, MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE THIS TYPE OF INTERPRETA-
TION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD GAIN CREDIT AND
SUPPORT FROM REMAINDER OF BOARD AND DG WHICH MIGHT BE
LATER USED TO OUR ADVANTAGE (SEE SEPTTEL ON EL-WAKIL
CONVERSATION) IF WE REFRAIN FROM RISING TO THE
OCCASION FOR CONFRONTATION PRODUCED BY ISRAELI BID FOR
INVITATION.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 12787 02 OF 02 201903Z

11. IN TERMS OF BOTH MEDIUM AND LONG RANGE TERMS US
OBJECTIVE IN REGARD TO UNESCO, ALTERNATIVE (B) WOULD
BE OUR CHOICE. HOWEVER, SINCE SUCH A CHOICE COULD
CONCEIVABLY BRING CRITICISM IN THE SHORT TERM, WE
DEFER TO DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN THIS MATTER.
RUSH

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